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Around the Late Medieval Clergy of the Wieluń Region.
 Notes and Additions on the Margins of Tadeusz Nowak's
 Book, *Duchowieństwo ziemi wieluńskiej w drugiej połowie
 XV i początku XVI wieku. Studium prozopograficzne,*
 Wieluńskie Towarzystwo Naukowe, Wieluń 2017, pp. 177

Wokół późnośredniowiecznego duchowieństwa ziemi wieluńskiej. Uwagi
 i uzupełnienia na marginesie książki Tadeusza Nowaka, *Duchowieństwo
 ziemi wieluńskiej w drugiej połowie XV i początku XVI wieku. Studium
 prozopograficzne*, Wieluńskie Towarzystwo Naukowe, Wieluń 2017, ss. 177

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to critically assess Tadeusz Nowak's book entitled *Duchowieństwo ziemi wieluńskiej w drugiej połowie XV i początku XVI wieku*. In addition to discussing the content of the monograph, the key part of the paper is devoted to supplementing the reviewed text. The Author brought into particular focus the subject literature,

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which was not used in the process of writing the work, as well as sources which have been omitted or taken into account only partially, which allow the readers to learn more about the careers of the medieval clergy of Wieluń region.

Key words: clergy, Wieluń region, Middle Ages, prosopography

The monograph, which is the subject of this paper, was published in 2017 by Wieluńskie Towarzystwo Naukowe. The text was written by Tadeusz Nowak, Professor at the University of Lodz (UŁ), head of the Department of Medieval History. The effort of reviewing the book was undertaken by Professor Alicja Szymczak, who, just like the Author, is associated with the Institute of History of the UŁ. The book's structure is divided into three chapters preceded by a preface. At the end of the book, the reader will find an appendix, a glossary of abbreviations and a list of works and sources cited in the work.

The book concerning the subject of the clergy of Wieluń region is one of four monographs planned by the Author. In order to offer as comprehensive outline of the society of this region in the period from 1456 to 1505 as possible, Nowak also intends to write papers concerning the nobility, the burghers and the peasant populace. In his preface, the Author explains that the choice of such a chronological scope was determined by the source documents. As he notes, 1456 was the year when court records started appearing on a broader scale, larger scale, and we also have consistorial records preserved since 1458 (p. 9).

The ambition of the Author of the reviewed monograph was to read the sources in order to find out the names of all the clergymen active in the Wieluń region during the analyzed period, not excluding members of religious congregations and orders. T. Nowak emphasizes that 'such a subject formulated in this manner has not yet been addressed so far in Polish historiography' (p. 10). In his work, in line with any other classic prosopographic study, he decided to analyze the geographical and social origins of clergymen, their family connections, as well as their education. He also decided to take a closer look at a number of issues, including the cumulation of benefices. In the subsequent part of the preface (pp. 12–13), the Author also gave us an overview of the source material, focusing in particular on the records of Wieluń's consistory from the Włocławek diocesan archive and Wieluń's cartularies, stored in the Diocesan Archives in Częstochowa. It took the Author exactly two sentences to summarize the source publications used in the monograph, then in a single, not even half-page long, paragraph he covered the subject literature, and the subsequent, slightly longer paragraph outlined the structure of the work.

In chapter I entitled *Oficjałowie wieluńscy i duchowieństwo kolegiaty wieluńskiej* [*Wieluń officialis and clergymen of the Wieluń collegiate church*] (pp. 15–61), the Author devotes subchapter 1 (pp. 15–19) on officialis, supplementing and improving the list previously published by Antoni Gąsiorowski and Izabela Skierska¹. Due to the fact that nine out of eleven Wieluń officialis were associated with the local collegiate church, T. Nowak decided to discuss the careers of these people in the next subchapter together with other representatives of the Wieluń chapter. In this subchapter, the Author limits his description to presenting the profiles of other clergymen, briefly characterizing all the officialis as a professional group, as well as listing these officialis with the dates of assuming the office preserved sources. In subchapter 2 (pp. 20–37) the Author focuses on the members of the Wieluń Collegiate chapter, outlining its provosts, deans, custodians, and then canons of the Radoszewice prebend, as well as the canons of the Popowice, Sieniec and Turów-Kurów prebends. The subchapter ends with a section presenting the Author's conclusions. In subchapter 3 (pp. 37–57), the Author covers the representatives of the lower strata of the clergy active at the Wieluń Collegiate, namely perpetual vicars, mansionaries and altarists. Apart from presenting their brief biographies, the subchapter also covers alphabetical lists of vicars and mansionaries and short summaries of each of the mentioned categories of clergymen. However, this type of comparison is missing in the case of altarists, who were presented in relation to the altars, at which they served. The following part of the first chapter is subchapter 4 (pp. 57–60), dedicated to the rectors of the collegiate school. Here, the Author followed suit of the previous subchapter and presented chronologically arranged profiles of 15 local rectors and briefly summarized his findings, but he did not make an alphabetical list of these figures. Eventually, the first chapter ends with a brief summary of the material presented thus far (pp. 60–61).

The next chapter titled *Duchowieństwo parafialne* [*Parish clergy*] (pp. 63–146) is made up of four subchapters and constitutes the most extensive part of the reviewed work. The first subchapter (pp. 63–119) covers the vast majority of the chapter's volume and focuses on the parish priests and the administrators [Latin: *comendarius*] of parish churches of the Wieluń region. Additionally, the subchapter is divided into 53 parts, which correspond to the number of parishes for which it was possible to determine the persons who were responsible for their administration, although in one case, namely, the parish in Opatów (p. 91) the Author stated that 'we lack data

¹ Cf. A. Gąsiorowski, I. Skierska, *Oficjalaty okręgowe w późnośredniowiecznej archidiecezji gnieźnieńskiej*, 'Czasopismo Prawno-Historyczne' 1995, 47, 1–2, pp. 93–124, mainly, pp. 123–124.

about the parish priests from Opatów' and only made a supposition that the parish may have been administrated by the monks from the St. Vincent monastery in Wrocław, which owned the aforementioned township. The subchapter concludes with alphabetical lists of parish priests and administrators of parish churches of Wieluń region (pp. 109–113), and a summary of the presented study results (pp. 113–119). The three remaining subchapters are much less extensive, which is a natural consequence of the level of preservation of source materials. They contain data concerning, in the following order: altarists of parish churches and chapels (pp. 119–120), vicars of parish churches (pp. 121–130), and rectors of schools and ministers of parish churches (pp. 130–146). Subchapters devoted to vicars and rectors were additionally briefly summarized and concluded with the chronologically ordered lists of identified persons. However, this chapter, unlike the first one, was not summarized as a whole.

A brief chapter 3, the final chapter in the book, was entitled *Duchowieństwo zakonne* [*Monastic clergy*] (pp. 147–155). This chapter outlines and characterizes the clergymen associated with the Augustinian monastery in Wieluń and the Pauline monasteries in Wieluń and Wieruszów. The discussion of each of the convents is concluded with a chronological list of priors and friars (limited to priors only in the case of the monastery in Wieruszów).

The book is concluded, as I mentioned in my introduction, with the appendix entitled *Duchowieństwo ziemi wieluńskiej w latach 1456–1505* [*The clergy of Wieluń region from 1456 to 1505*] (pp. 157–164), which lists all the described persons in alphabetical order according to their first names, the conclusions (pp. 165–169), where T. Nowak attempted to summarize the entirety of the presented material, as well as a glossary of abbreviations (pp. 171–172), and a list of works cited (pp. 173–177).

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Reading the book prompted the Author of this review to offer a number of additions and comments. The first comment concerns the career of Jan Grądzki, described by the Author (p. 16), and the erroneous information that the clergyman became a canon and archdeacon of Gniezno in 1434. In reality, this event took place in 1435. Avoiding this mistake required only knowing the studies concerning the Gniezno chapter by Jan Korytkowski and Marta Czyżak, who provided the correct information when preparing Grądzki's profile². Another noteworthy fact is that these works do not

² Cf. J. Korytkowski, *Pracownicy i kanonicy katedry metropolitalnej gnieźnieńskiej od roku 1000 aż do dni naszych*, vol. 2, Gniezno 1883, p. 129; M. Czyżak, *Kapituła katedralna w Gnieźnie w świetle metryki z lat 1408–1448*, Poznań 2003, pp. 338–339.

appear in the list of works cited used by the Author, although he certainly knew at least the former, given that he cited it in some other places in his monograph (see for example page 30, footnote 61).

My further comments concern the career of Strogomir of Zdziar, provost of Wieluń, (pp. 20–21). Unfortunately, T. Nowak did not decide to use all the papal source references that highlighted the ecclesiastical career of this clergyman, including an interesting remark from the records of the papal penitentiary³. The latter has already been used in subject literature by Andrzej Radziwiński, the Author of the latest – and unfortunately not included in Nowak's book – biography of Strogomir, which also contains other valuable information⁴.

In his discussion of the deans of the Wieluń collegiate church, T. Nowak, went slightly beyond the chronological framework of the work by mentioning the resignation of Wawrzyniec from Ostrów from his post, shortly filled by Stanisław Łowieński. This resignation in February 1507 was approved by King Sigismund the Old. Nowak also mentioned that Dean Stanisław also appeared to be the dean on 9 May 1509, according to the consistory records (p. 24). However, he decided not to delve deeper into his career – neither there, nor on the occasion of discussing the parish priests in Borowno, where Łowieński served in 1500–1506 (p. 71). Reading even later source materials could let the Author know that Stanisław Łowieński was also mentioned as dean of Wieluń and canon of Poznań on 5 April and 17 May 1527, among others⁵, and again as the dean and canon of Wieluń on 14 May 1530⁶.

At least one piece of information concerning the canon Mikołaj Ostrowski also needs to be corrected (p. 26). According to T. Nowak, the

³ The Author of the book only referred to the source mentions concerning Strogomir from the sixth volume of *Bullarium Poloniae*, which were included in the index under 'Wieluń', while omitting two others, see: *Bullarium Poloniae litteras apostolicas aliaque monumenta Poloniae Vaticana continens* [hereinafter: Bull. Pol.], vol. 6, (1447–1464), eds. I. Sułkowska-Kuraś et al., Romae–Lublino 1998, no. 358, no. 1210; cf. *Repertorium Poenitentiarie Germanicum*, vol. 2, eds. L. Schmutge, K. Bukowska, A. Mosciatti, Tübingen 1999, no. 815.

⁴ Cf. A. Radziwiński, *Strogomir ze Zdziar h. Gozdawa (zm. po 1469), kanclerz i prepozyt płocki*, in: *Polski Słownik Biograficzny*, vol. 44, Warszawa–Kraków 2006, pp. 339–340. Tadeusz Nowak only knew Radziwiński's book devoted to the prelates and canons of the Płock chapter, which was published in the early 1990s, cf. A. Radziwiński, *Pralaci i kanonicy kapituły katedralnej płockiej w XIV i I poł. XV w. Studium prozopograficzne*, vol. 1, *Pralaci*, Toruń 1991, pp. 141–142.

⁵ Cf. S. Librowski, *Inwentarz realny dokumentów Archiwum Diecezjalnego we Włocławku*, vol. 1, *lata 1232–1550*, Włocławek 1994, pp. 240–241, no. 448–449. The book cited above is not included in the list of sources and works cited by T. Nowak.

⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 246, no. 459.

priest died before 22 July 1487. Thanks to the studies carried out by Zofia Wilk-Woś, we already know that he must have died before 10 July, since on that day, the Archbishop of Gniezno ordered Jan Bogucki to take over the post of a canon of the Kalisz collegiate church, which was left vacant after his death⁷.

While outlining the career of Andrzej Gruszczyński (p. 27), he mistakenly linked the clergyman to the provostry of Kalisz, which he did not have in 1468. Such information was provided years ago by A. Gašiorowski (Gruszczyński was described as such at the meeting of the Włocławek chapter in 1468)⁸ and that information was repeated by Anna Kowalska-Pietrzak⁹ and Anna Jabłońska¹⁰, among others. It is worth noting, however, that at that time Andrzej Gruszczyński had the post of archdeacon of Kalisz (from 1460 until his death), and according to the sources, Wojciech Żychliński was a provost in Kalisz from 1452 to 1471¹¹.

In his mention of the cleric of the diocese of Poznań, Piotr Heppener of Kościan (pp. 26–27), who applied for a vacant canon's residence in the Wieluń collegiate church, along with some other details from his life, including his efforts to get the canon's residence in Głogów, the Author should also refer to the biographies of this clergyman, written by Kazimierz Dola and Henryk Gerlic¹². I also have a similar comment concerning the use of the results of studies on the career of Stanisław Gruszczyński, son of Piotr of Gruszczyce (pp. 27–28). Recalling the Authors who wrote the biographies of this figure, T. Nowak should also bring up another important biography by A. Jabłońska¹³, which he did not do, despite his knowledge of the monograph of the medieval Uniejów chapter.

⁷ Z. Wilk-Woś, *Późnośredniowieczna kancelaria arcybiskupów gnieźnieńskich (1437–1493)*, Łódź 2013, p. 132. The Author declares his knowledge of this book in the list of works cited, which were used to write the monograph.

⁸ Cf. A. Gašiorowski, *Kanonicy włocławscy w najstarszej metryce kapitulnej (1435–1500)*, in: *Duchowieństwo kapitulne w Polsce średniowiecznej i wczesnonowożytnej. Studia nad pochodzeniem i funkcjonowaniem elity kościelnej*, ed. A. Radziwiński, Toruń 2000, p. 40.

⁹ A. Kowalska-Pietrzak, *Prałaci i kanonicy kapituły łęczyckiej do schyłku XV wieku*, Łódź 2004, pp. 203–204.

¹⁰ A. Jabłońska, *Kapituła uniejowska do początku XVI wieku*, Kielce 2005, p. 138.

¹¹ This piece of information is provided by P. Dembiński, cf. P. Dembiński, *Poznańska kapituła katedralna schyłku wieków średnich. Studium prozopograficzne 1428–1500*, Poznań 2012, pp. 352–353 (Andrzej Gruszczyński's biography), p. 724 (Wojciech Żychliński's biography). This work was known to Tadeusz Nowak.

¹² Cf. K. Dola, *Wrocławska kapituła katedralna w XV wieku. Ustrój–skład osobowy–działalność*, Lublin 1983, pp. 357–358; H. Gerlic, *Kapituła głogowska w dobie piastowskiej i jagiellońskiej (1120–1526)*, Gliwice 1993, p. 286.

¹³ Cf. A. Jabłońska, *op. cit.*, pp. 186–188.

Inaccuracies can be also found in Mikołaj Bedleński's biography (pp. 28–29). The statement that the clergyman was seeking the Krakow scholastic as early as in 1503 does not seem to be entirely precise. It is worth pointing out the facts cited both in the subject literature used by T. Nowak, as well as in papal sources, that Mikołaj resigned from this post in favor of Maciej Drzewicki in December 1502¹⁴. One would also be hard-pressed to agree with the Author that in papal sources, Mikołaj was mentioned as a Płock canon from 1488 to 1493, and in 1493 he was listed as a Pułtusk archdeacon. It is only certain that the mentioned sources name him a canon of Płock in 1488¹⁵. In 1492 he was supposedly given the post of the canon at the Płock Cathedral, and in 1493 he deposited an annate bond with the Apostolic Camera¹⁶. The same is true of the Pułtusk archdeaconry, for which Mikołaj also received a papal proviso, which resulted in the need to deposit an annate bond with the Camera; however, it was not tantamount to a final decision that he would indeed receive the benefice¹⁷.

While outlining the career of Jan Stanko (Stanconis) from Głogów (Lubin) (p. 31), the Author omitted the latest extensive biography devoted to this clergyman, written by Stanisław Jujeczka during his study on the clergy of medieval Legnica¹⁸. The knowledge of this monograph would allow the Author not only to present the figure of Jan Stanko in a more extensive and comprehensive manner, but also to avoid mistakes, for example in the case of the date of the clergyman's death, which happened in 1492, as Jujeczka proved, and not in 1493.

The significant omissions in subject literature used for writing the book can also be seen in the case of presentation of the career of Jan Kittel (pp. 31–32). In this case, it would be reasonable to refer to the conclusions of Gerhard Zimmermann and K. Dola, who were investigating the life stories of the members of the Cathedral Chapter in Wrocław¹⁹.

The book in question also lacks any mentions of using biographies

¹⁴ Cf. P. Dembiński, *op. cit.*, p. 522; *Annaty z Królestwa Polskiego w XV wieku (1421–1503)*, ed. M.D. Kowalski, Kraków 2002, no. 1082–1083.

¹⁵ *Annaty*, no. 925.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, no. 977.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*. Here, it would be also worthwhile to mention the incredibly valuable remarks concerning interpreting papal documents, provided by Marek Daniel Kowalski, cf. M.D. Kowalski, *Opłaty annatowe w piętnastowiecznych aktach Kamery Apostolskiej. Uwagi na temat interpretacji źródeł proveniencji papieskiej*, 'Roczniki Historyczne' 2001, 67, pp. 169–196.

¹⁸ S. Jujeczka, *Duchowni średniowiecznej Legnicy. Studium prozopograficzne*, Legnica 2006, pp. 312–314.

¹⁹ G. Zimmermann, *Das Breslauer Domkapitel im Zeitalter der Reformation und Gegenreformation (1500–1600). Verfassungsgeschichtliche Entwicklung und persönliche Zusammensetzung*, Weimar 1938, p. 326; K. Dola, *op. cit.*, pp. 329, 361.

devoted to several clergymen associated with Wieluń and the Wieluń region, which were compiled by Tomasz Andrzej Nowak and published in subsequent volumes of *Wieluński słownik biograficzny*²⁰. Confronting the results of the Author's studies with the findings contained therein would undoubtedly bring many benefits to the reviewed monograph, all the more so given that the data provided by both authors sometimes have the tendency to differ rather significantly. This is the case, for example, with Jakub Kiernosek, whose first appearance in the sources as a vicar is presented differently by both authors²¹. Additionally, Tomasz Andrzej Nowak also conflates Kiernosek with the administrators of the Ożarów parish and the parish priest in Łagiewniki and Krzyworzeka, while Tadeusz Nowak came to the conclusion that vicar Jakub Kiernosek is a different person than Jakub the parish priest and the administrators in Ożarów and the parish priest in Krzyworzeka, which he clearly indicated, in particular in his discussion of parish priest in the latter township (p. 82, footnote 291).

Another considerable mistake concerns the omission of the results of studies carried out by Jerzy Wolny, who compiled a list of students of the University of Krakow from the diocese of Częstochowa in the 15th century²², and Andrzej Kopysta, who devoted his extensive paper to students from the collegiate parish in Wieluń at the University of Krakow²³. Both of these works, in particular the latter one, contain a wealth of biographical information about the people studied by T. Nowak. The Author eventually refers to a small extent to the work by Sławomir Zabraniak, who in his study of the Old Polish church in Wieluń often brought up the priest, whom T. Nowak investigated later²⁴. This area also sorely lacks the critical approach to prior art, and it is worth pointing out that in his work on the rectors of Wieluń school, Zabraniak mentioned Master Mikołaj, who held this post in 1487, and in his discussion of the Augustinians of Wieluń, he noted, among things, prior Piotr in 1482. Unfortunately, these figures are nowhere to be found in this book²⁵.

²⁰ T.A. Nowak, *Kiernosek Jakub*, in: *Wieluński słownik biograficzny*, vol. 1, eds. Z. Szczerbik, Z. Włodarczyk, Wieluń 2012, pp. 61–62; idem, *Łowieński Stanisław*, in: *ibidem*, pp. 79–80; idem, *Sworzec Jan*, in: *ibidem*, pp. 119–120.

²¹ Cf. T.A. Nowak, *Kiernosek*, p. 61. See also Tadeusz Nowak's deliberations on vicar Jakub Kiernosek on page 44 of the reviewed book.

²² Cf. J. Wolny, *Studenci Uniwersytetu Krakowskiego w XV wieku z terenu diecezji częstochowskiej*, 'Częstochowskie Wiadomości Diecezjalne' 1969, 43, 3–6, pp. 95–108.

²³ Cf. A. Kopysta, *Studenci z parafii kolegiackiej w Wieluniu na Uniwersytecie Krakowskim w latach 1400–1642*, 'Częstochowskie Studia Teologiczne' 1986, 14, pp. 347–403.

²⁴ Cf. S. Zabraniak, *Wieluński ośrodek kościelny w okresie staropolskim*, Lublin 2007.

²⁵ Cf. *Ibidem*, p. 101.

In the presentation of the clergymen who took parishes in Wieluń region in chapter two, the Author did not refer at all to the known *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny ziemi wieluńskiej w średniowieczu*. The data on the clergy who are of interest to T. Nowak may not be particularly abundant or complete; however, Ryszard Rosin, the Author of *Słownik* provided information, for example, about Piotr, parish priest in Czarnożyły²⁶ mentioned in 1494, as well as the parish priest Stanisław in Czastary in 1460²⁷, the information about Jan, parish priest in Naramice²⁸, mentioned in 1476, as well as Jan, parish priest in Ożarów, erroneously indicated by R. Rosin under the year 1466 – in reality, he was mentioned as a parish priest in 1460²⁹. The work also features data about Stanisław, who mentioned as a parish priest in in Skomlin in 1459³⁰, Jan, mentioned as a parish priest in Sokolniki in 1459³¹, and also about another Jan, who appeared in 1462 as a parish priest in Szczyty³², as well as Jakub, whom R. Rosin noted as parson priest in Wieruszów in 1459³³. However, Tadeusz Nowak does not refer his readers to this information. Let us also note that nearly all the information concerning about the above clergymen was taken by R. Rosin took *Acta capitulorum*, which is another work T. Nowak almost does not cite³⁴ in these places, although he certainly knows it. Instead, he keeps referring to manuscript records of Wieluń's consistory.

The lack of citations of sources published in *Acta capitulorum* is also visible in several other places. For example, the information concerning 5 January 1459³⁵ should be cited both in the case of Mikołaj of Rogulice, as well as Stanisław, parish priest in Ruda. The citation of this source would be particularly advisable in the latter case, given that T. Nowak, presenting the Ruda parish priests in rather imprecise terms noted that Stanisław took over the local parish before 16 January 1459 (p. 96). Examples of further ignoring the sources from *Acta capitulorum*, or their selective use, which has significantly affected the quality and completeness of information

²⁶ *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny ziemi wieluńskiej w średniowieczu*, ed. R. Rosin, Warszawa 1963, p. 71.

²⁷ *Ibidem*.

²⁸ *Ibidem*, s. 121.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, s. 132.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, s. 152.

³¹ *Ibidem*, s. 155.

³² *Ibidem*, s. 159.

³³ *Ibidem*, s. 175.

³⁴ The exception concerns the parish priest of Wieruszów, Jakub (p. 106, annotation 465).

³⁵ *Acta capitulorum nec non iudiciorum ecclesiasticorum selecta*, ed. B. Ulanowski, vol. 2, *Acta iudiciorum ecclesiasticorum dioecesium Gneznensis et Poznaniensis (1403–1530)*, Kraków 1902, no. 812.

about many of the clergymen described, can be found in the book – unfortunately, these were not the only examples³⁶.

There is also a small comment concerning the will of a burgher from Wieluń, Mikołaj Mierzycki, of 17 March 1457³⁷, cited by the Author and published by S. Librowski. The following clergymen from Wieluń region were named there as witnesses to the act: Wojciech of Widawa, described as a bachelor and officialis of Wieluń, Andrzej, a vicar and preacher, Wawrzyniec Halusz, also a member of the college of Wieluń's vicars, and Mikołaj, then a parish priest in Krzyworzeka. Tadeusz Nowak, in his presentation of the vicars of Wieluń on p. 38, counted among them the above-mentioned Wojciech of Widawa, claiming that 'we know him as a vicar only from two documents from 17 March and 27 August 1457, which he issued'. However, it should be noted that Wojciech was certainly not the issuer of the document of 17 March, and as far as signatures are concerned, Wojciech is probably only mentioned in the document as a bachelor and officialis of Wieluń. Only Andrzej and Wawrzyniec seem to be vicars in the quoted witness list³⁸. Let us stop for a moment at the aforementioned parish priest Mikołaj from Krzyworzeka, whom on p. 82 T. Nowak describes that he was the son of Maciej of Wieluń and brother of Jan Rydzek, and that in 1419 he started studying in Krakow. The Author also informs that he was associated with the parish in Krzyworzeka in the years 1429–1459. Given the above information, it is probably worth considering whether the clergyman should be conflated with the public notary Mikołaj, son of Maciej of Wieluń, known from a document dated on 15 June 1440³⁹. T. Nowak made no such attempt, perhaps because he did not know about the above document.

In order to present the career of Maciej of Cykarzewo in the most comprehensive manner possible, the Author should also consider the document of 16 March 1463, which was published years ago by S. Librowski⁴⁰.

³⁶ Cf. among others: *Ibidem*, no. 813–814, 819, 821, 823, 825–826, 828–832, 835–838, 840, 845, 849, 852–854, 857–858, 861, 872–876, 878, 887, 1983–1984, 1986, 1988–1992, 1994–1995, 1997–1998.

³⁷ *Trzydzieści jeden nie drukowanych oryginałów pergaminowych Archiwum Diec. we Włocławku z drugiej połowy XV wieku. Trzecie Czwierćwiecze*, ed. S. Librowski, 'Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne' 1988, 57, pp. 224–226, no. 7.

³⁸ Cf. *Ibidem*, no. 7, p. 226. S. Librowski does not identify him as a vicar here either.

³⁹ Cf. *Trzydzieści osiem nie drukowanych oryginałów pergaminowych Archiwum Diec. we Włocławku z pierwszej połowy XV wieku*, ed. S. Librowski, 'Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne' 1988, 56, pp. 278–280, no. 29. S. Librowski also published an extensive regestum of this document at a later date, cf. *idem*, *Inwentarz*, p. 155, no. 278.

⁴⁰ Cf. *Trzydzieści jeden*, p. 229–231, no. 11. S. Librowski also published an extensive regestum of this document at a later date, cf. *idem*, *Inwentarz*, p. 175–176, no. 317.

From the content of this diploma we learn that the burghers of Wieluń, Piotr and Agnieszka Potrzeba, allocated $\frac{1}{4}$ of the annual rent to the aforementioned Maciej, an altarist at the Wieluń collegiate church at the altar of Michael the Archangel. The lack of use of this document can also be seen in other places in the work. One should bear in mind that among the signatures of the witnesses, there are several other clergymen of Wieluń – the custodian and officialis of Wieluń, Mikołaj of Rogulice, preacher Andrzej, who works at the collegiate church in Wieluń, as well as the local perpetual vicars: Mikołaj Bara, Marcin, judge's son, Stanisław, Mikołaj, known as the Lawyer and Wawrzyniec. It seems that all of them are known to T. Nowak, although we do not find any reference to this document in the case of any of them. As an altarist Maciej of Cykarzewo also appears in another document published by Librowski, whose traces of use, however, are not found in the book by T. Nowak⁴¹.

The materials from the Diocesan Archives in Włocławek can also be used to complement information about the career of the Wieluń vicar Marcin Skrzyński, about whom T. Nowak wrote, among other things, that 'he died in 1491, between 6 July and 2 November' (p. 39). This sentence can be made a little more specific, since it is known that on 13 September 1491 Marcin was still alive, and his will in the form of a notary act was drawn up on that day in Wieluń by Marek, son of Maciej Niemierza of Szetlewo⁴². The knowledge of this document would also broaden the Author's knowledge about Marek of Szetlewo, the notary later noted, for example as the custodian of the Wieluń collegiate church (1499–1522) and officialis of Wieluń (1504–1510). Although T. Nowak knows this figure, he limits mentioning his activity as a public notary to the date of his admission (1491). He does not inform the readers about said document, as well as another one of 22 May 1493, where Marek also acts as a public notary⁴³. Let us also add that the document of 1491 mentioned above also adds some new additional information concerning the activities of the officialis of Wieluń and, at the same time, of the provost at the local collegiate church, Wincenty Rzepczyński, who was supposed to add a wax seal to said diploma, which might have taken place on 5 October that year, as S. Librowski pointed out⁴⁴.

Also not quoted in T. Nowak's book is the document of 27 November 1506, which brings information on the activities of vicar Maciej of Wiewiec,

⁴¹ *Trzydzieści jeden*, pp. 238–239, no. 15; see also: S. Librowski, *op. cit.*, p. 179, no. 323.

⁴² This document is mentioned by S. Librowski, cf. *idem*, *op. cit.*, pp. 206–207, no. 377.

⁴³ Cf. *Ibidem*, p. 208, no. 380.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 207, no. 377.

known to the Author as the vicar of Wieluń in the years 1503–1515 (p. 44). In the aforementioned document of 1506, the College of Vicars appointed Maciej as their proxy in a certain dispute over rent, which was to be settled before the court of Archbishop Andrzej Boryszewski of Gniezno⁴⁵.

Other comments can also be made concerning the extent to which the Author uses papal sources throughout the work. It seems that sometimes T. Nowak fails to take full advantage of the information contained therein, as exemplified by the fact that he did not mention the fact of his kinship with the Archbishop of Gniezno, Wincenty Kot⁴⁶, among others, when discussing the career of Mikołaj of Gosławice (pp. 20 and 23). It is also a pity that the Author did not use papal materials published in *Repertorium Germanicum*, a publication that is undoubtedly better and more accurate than *Bullarium Poloniae*, which has had a number of very critical reviews⁴⁷. In the face of all the criticism, it seems advisable, as far as possible, to confront the entries from the *Bullarium* with those found in the *Repertorium*. Such a confrontation could be worthwhile in the case of the aforementioned source from 1448, concerning Mikołaj of Gosławice. Based only on the information from the *Bullarium*, T. Nowak, who thankfully was not deceived by the erroneous entry, was forced to inform the reader about the office of archdeacon of Wieluń, which was wrongly assigned to Mikołaj, considering this entry to be a 'mistake of the papal chancellery' (p. 20). However, said mistake was probably made by the publishers of the *Bullarium*, since the *Repertorium*, where we also find the source we are looking for, correctly identifies the clergyman as a dean, instead of archdeacon of Wieluń⁴⁸. The knowledge of the material published in *Repertorium* would also help to present more fully, among other things, the careers of Strogomir of Zdziar and Stanisław of Wieluń⁴⁹, who competed with the former for the position of

⁴⁵ This document is mentioned in an extensive regestum by S. Librowski, cf. *idem*, *op. cit.*, p. 217, no. 401.

⁴⁶ This information is contained in a source mention published in: *Bull. Pol.*, vol. 6, no. 173.

⁴⁷ Cf. above all: M.D. Kowalski, *Uwagi o 'Bullarium Poloniae'. Spojrzanie na koncepcję edycji i wykonanie*, 'Studia Źródłoznawcze' 2007, 45, p. 71–97; *idem*, *Krytyczne uwagi o najnowszym, siódmym tomie 'Bullarium Poloniae'*, 'Roczniki Historyczne' 2007, 73, pp. 214–231.

⁴⁸ *Repertorium Germanicum. Verzeichnis der in den päpstlichen Registern und Kameralakten vorkommenden Personen, Kirchen und Orte des Deutschen Reiches, seiner Diözesen und Territorien vom Beginn des Schismas bis zur Reformation*, vol. 6, eds. J. F. Abert, W. Deeters, Tübingen 1985, no. 4534.

⁴⁹ *Ibidem*, no. 2648; *Repertorium Germanicum. Verzeichnis der in den päpstlichen Registern und Kameralakten vorkommenden Personen, Kirchen und Orte des Deutschen Reiches, seiner Diözesen und Territorien vom Beginn des Schismas bis zur Reformation*, vol. 8, eds. D. Brosius, U. Scheschkewitz, Tübingen 1993, no. 5309, 5408. Other comments on Strogomir's career outlined by Tadeusz Nowak are presented in the earlier part of the text.

the provost, as well as to outline the biography of Jan Stanko⁵⁰ in more detail. Finally, some attention should be paid to the latest, tenth volume of *Repertorium Germanicum*, covering the years 1471–1484, namely, the period of the pontificate of Pope Sixtus IV. This volume was published in 2018 and could not be included in the work of T. Nowak, for obvious reasons. However, due to the fact that it contains a number of very interesting references to the clergy of Wieluń region, I believe it is worthwhile to present them briefly, hoping that they may still be used by the Author in other of his publications, or perhaps in the second, supplemented edition of the book about the clergy of Wieluń region. Thanks to the published papal sources concerning the years 1471–1484, we can say more about, for example, the parish priest of Ruda Maciej, known to T. Nowak only by first name, who in the discussed sources appears as ‘Mathias Dobeslai de Cassycze (de Canschicze)’. This person was mentioned on 31 August 1473, when he received a post of a provost in the collegiate church in Wieluń in connection with Strogomir’s resignation, along with a dispensation allowing him to combine this role with the parish in Ruda⁵¹. There are also some other information concerning this figure from 1474–1476, indicating that he ran the Ruda parish, along with his efforts to obtain the position of the provost of Wieluń⁵². The clergyman still undoubtedly lived on 1 February 1476⁵³. However, he died before 23 December of that year, when – due to his death – the Ruda parish was taken over by the cleric of Gniezno diocese ‘Mathias de Crischanow’⁵⁴. The volume in question also mentions Stanisław Gruszczyński – there is a number of records from the years 1473–1484, which give us a more comprehensive picture of his career, which differs slightly from the biographical outline by T. Nowak⁵⁵. Stanisław Gruszczyński is also mentioned numerous times in the many and at times somewhat complicated source notes illustrating the ongoing dispute over the seat of Wieluń provost in the curia, which involved a number of people and which should be better examined and described in the future⁵⁶. There are also several noteworthy records concerning a certain Mikołaj, son of Piotr ‘de Latowycz’, who supposedly was a chaplain in

⁵⁰ *Repertorium Germanicum*, vol. 8, no. 3637.

⁵¹ *Repertorium Germanicum. Verzeichnis der in den päpstlichen Registern und Kameralakten vorkommenden Personen, Kirchen und Orte des Deutschen Reiches, seiner Diözesen und Territorien vom Beginn des Schismas bis zur Reformation*, vol. 10, eds. U. Schwarz et al., Berlin–Boston 2018, no. 7749.

⁵² *Ibidem*.

⁵³ *Ibidem*.

⁵⁴ *Ibidem*, no. 7746.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*, no. 7022, 7245, 9472–9473, 9480.

⁵⁶ Cf. *Ibidem*, no. 9472–9473, 9480, 9490.

Wieluń in 1481–1482⁵⁷. Another key information concerns the canon's residence in Wieluń, which Andrzej Primus de Crayov⁵⁸ received on 28 May 1484 in connection with his nomination for the position in place of Jan Senatoris, who had resigned. The papal sources presented here also bring us important information on the relationship with the Chapter of Wieluń of the aforementioned Jan Kittel of Lubin and Jan Stanko (Stanconis). This former received the vacant canon's residence in Wieluń following Stanconis' resignation on 31 May 1484, and on 18 June that year he was already mentioned as a canon of Wieluń, who was depositing his annate bond and paying the 14 florins he was due⁵⁹.

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In order to conclude my remarks and try and make an overall evaluation of the book, I would like to point out, first of all, that the summaries and general conclusions drawn by the Author on the basis of the analyzed material leave some sense of dissatisfaction. This concerns, for example, rather lacking descriptions, which usually boil down to simple summaries of figures and illegible lists of priests, which would probably look better if they were compiled in clear tables. The Author was also not consistent in drawing up lists of clergy. Some subchapters are concluded with lists in alphabetical order, while in other places one can find lists in chronological order, and sometimes subchapters have no lists at all. It is also incomprehensible that the appendix, which was supposed to cover the entire clergy of Wieluń region during the period in question, omits vicars of parish churches and school rectors, as well as members of congregations, all presented in chapters 2 and 3. This impacts the entire summary, in which the Author brings up the total number of 286 clergymen, that is, the ones included in the appendix, which – I will stress once again – does not include members of religious orders and congregations, vicars of parish churches and rectors. However, the Author sums up all these groups at the end, going as far as to add vicars employed by the parish priests to the total number, thus getting to '425 clergymen active in the ecclesiastical institutions of Wieluń region' (p. 169). From this general summary the reader eventually finds out that the appendix was probably supposed to cover only the benefice clergy and clergymen who took up the position of an officialis. However, an appropriate explanation should already be provided in the introduction to the book or at least in

⁵⁷ *Ibidem*, no. 8314–8315.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, no. 386.

⁵⁹ *Ibidem*, no. 4871.

the appendix itself. Otherwise the readers are misled. I also believe that a classical prosopographic study needs to contain as comprehensive biographies as possible, which is something that cannot be replaced by any scattered biographical information. Another important flaw is the lack of an index of persons. In prosopographic studies of this kind, such a list is necessary and it is something that cannot be replaced with biographies listed in alphabetical order, which is something that the reviewed monograph also lacks, as I mentioned before.

A small detail that needs to be pointed out, however, is mistakenly naming Marcin of Sułkowice, whose career is discussed on pages 29–30, as Mikołaj of Sułkowice in the appendix on page 161, as well as mistaking Mikołaj Półkoń for Maciej Półkoń on page 10. Moreover, the table of contents does not list the provosts, whom the Author presented on pages 20–23 in the subchapter devoted to prelates and canons of Wieluń collegiate church. At this point, I also need to bring up the surprisingly significant number of various kinds of language defects, which seem to indicate a lack of a comprehensive proofreading on the part of the publisher (there is no person responsible for it mentioned in the editorial footer)⁶⁰. This accusation is primarily directed at the publisher, although in the end it is always the Author who is responsible for the final shape of the publication.

At the end, I also have a number of minor technical remarks concerning the footnotes and the list of works cited. One can note some inconsistencies with what the Author does there. Some of the studies in Nowak's book were cited only in a shortened form, while others were accompanied by a full bibliographic description upon their first citation. The Author does not always consistently shorten the titles of the cited works, which can be seen in the case of A. Kowalska-Pietrzak's book on the members of the collegiate chapter in Łęczyca, once cited as *Prataci i kanonicy* (for example on p. 26, footnote 45 and p. 27, footnote 48), and sometimes only as *Prataci* (for example p. 21, footnote 25–26 and p. 27, footnote 50). The same thing concerns A. Jabłońska's monograph on the Uniejów chapter in the Middle Ages, which T. Nowak sometimes cited as *Kapituła uniejowska* (for example on p. 27, footnote 48 and p. 29, footnote 55), and sometimes as *Kapituła* (p. 29, footnote 57). Not all the works used in the book, for

⁶⁰ See for example p. 16 'Z zapisce 1460 r. [...]'; '[...] jako oficjał wieluńskiego wystąpił [...]'; p. 17 '[...] przedstawienia krótkiej charakterystyka oficjałów [...]'; '[...] późniejszym starosta generalnym [...]'; p. 19 '[...] kumulowali w swych ręku [...]'; p. 31 '[...] wzmiankowany był w także [...]'; p. 33 '[...] dysponujemy nie końca pewnymi [...]'; p. 34 '[...] w przybliżeniu możemy ustalić określić ile lat [...]'; p. 36 '[...] kumulowali w swych ręku [...]'; p. 42 '[...] obowiązki w kolegiacie wieluńskiej wypełniał [...]'; p. 43 'Jan pochodził się z rodziny [...]']'.

example the monograph by Magdalena Bilaska-Ciećwierz, on the creation and organization of collegiate chapters of the Gniezno metropolis in the Middle Ages and the aforementioned work by J. Korytkowski on the prelates and canons of Gniezno, were added to the list of works cited in the book⁶¹.

The additions and changes proposed in this review are of varying nature and significance. Nevertheless, the overall assessment of the reviewed work is rather positive. One would be hard-pressed to disregard the effort made by the Author. The manuscript sources used by T. Nowak beg appreciation, especially given his meticulous review of the records of the Wieluń consistory. It is worth noting that the Author often cited these materials in spite of the fact that the other editions of these sources had already been published. The work about the late-medieval clergy of Wieluń region fills a gap in historiography and becomes another position thanks to which we can get to know the society of medieval Poland better.

(translated by LINGUA LAB)

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⁶¹ The list of works not recorded in the bibliography, nonetheless, used by the Author, can also be extended by a monograph by Leszek Poniewozik on the composition of the collegiate chapter in Wiślica.

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STRESZCZENIE

Celem artykułu jest krytyczna ocena książki Tadeusza Nowaka pt. *Duchowieństwo ziemi wieluńskiej w drugiej połowie XV i początku XVI wieku*. Poza omówieniem treści monografii zasadniczą część artykułu stanowią uzupełnienia. Szczególną uwagę zwrócono na niewykorzystaną w pracy literaturę przedmiotu, a także na pominięte, bądź uwzględnione jedynie w niewielkim zakresie źródła, dzięki którym możemy lepiej poznać kariery średniowiecznego duchowieństwa ziemi wieluńskiej.

Słowa kluczowe: duchowieństwo, ziemia wieluńska, średniowiecze, prozopografia

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